

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04470 041048Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 L-03
EB-08 /094 W
-----093153 050604Z /15

R 040934Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9062
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4470

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SY, SU, ET
SUBJ: SYRIA AIRLIFT TO ERITREANS DISRUPTED

REF: DAMASCUS 4379

1. RICHARD BERNARD INFORMED US AUGUST 2 THAT HIS CONVAIR
880 WHICH WAS CHARTED TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH LEBANESE
MIDDLEMAN NAMED BAZNA HAD RETURNED TO MIAMI. BERNARD
WAS NOT SURE OF EXACT REASON SINCE HIS PARTNER WHO NOTIFIED
HIM OF THE NEWS FROM CAIRO DID NOT WANT SYRIANS TO KNOW REASONS
FOR PLANE'S RETURN. BERNARD SPECULATED THAT CREW WAS
UNHAPPY WITH POSSIBLE HAZARDS OF CARRYING ARMS AND AMMUNITION
INTO PORT SUDAN AIRPORT AND WANTED OUT OF CONTRACT.
BERNARD HAD INFORMED BAZNA OF THIS AND PROMISED TO FIND HIM
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ANOTHER PLANE IF POSSIBLE. (BAZNA EVIDENTLY HAS ESTABLISHED
ELABORATE AIR NETWORK BETWEEN AFRICA, EUROPE, AND MIDEAST
FOR EMPEROR BOKASSA OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND
BERNARD ASSISTING HIM WITH THIS.)

2. IN ADDITION TO MOTARS AND AMMUNITION MENTIONED REFTTEL
BERNARD ALSO INDICATED THAT ANTI-TANK MINES MADE UP A LARGE

PORTION OF THE SHIPMENTS.

3. TO DATE, CONVAIR HAS COMPLETED ONLY FOUR OF FIFTEEN
FLIGHTS CALLED FOR IN THE CONTRACT, AND IT IS UNLIKELY SYRIANS
HAVE ANY OTHER PLANE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE THEY CAN PRESS
INTO SERVICE. THUS, 750,000 POUNDS OF MATERIEL SYRIANS
SHIPPING TO ERITREANS EVERY 45 DAYS MAY BE SLOWED DURING
A CRITICAL PERIOD FOR ERITREANS.

PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
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